



# KEYWORDS

JOURNAL FOR THE COMMODORE USERS GROUP OF ST. LOUIS

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The Commodore Users Group hosted the Second Annual Swap Meet at the Bridgeton Community Center on Saturday, October 18.

Although our flyers and ad in the Post-Dispatch did not seem to bring in as many prospective buyers as we had hoped, almost all tables were taken and sales were brisk. CUGSL had enough inventory to use two tables and we were able to sell a 128 Computer with Monitor and a complete 64 System with Printer. Many other peripherals and programs were sold. We still have an Amiga 500 and some 1541 Drives and various Printers if anyone is interested. All have been tested and are in working order. For those of you who need a second Drive these are very reasonably priced.

## October BOD



The meeting was held October 2 with all 7 members present.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$852.03. Sept. debits were \$44.82 for printing Keywords and Swap Meet Flyers and postage. Credits of \$104.00 resulted from the raffle and DOM, renewal of 2 memberships, and dues from 2 new members - A. Gentile and K. Simpson. Our membership is 29.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Swap Meet. An inventory check was made to determine what equipment will be retained in CUGSL inventory and the items not necessary will be sold at the Swap Meet. Some of the items have not been located at this time. Set time for people bringing items is 9:00 a.m.

Anniversary Party. A lot of invitation calls have been made. A suggestion was made to have everyone bring memorabilia to the Party.

Bill Diamond will give a presentation on GEOS at our October meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Clara McClaskey

## October Meeting Notes

Our October meeting was held Oct. 9th at 7:30 p.m. There were 14 members and 2 guests Danny and Andra Shafer, present.

President Joe McDevitt experienced car trouble and was unable to attend. Vice President Jason Whitener chaired the meeting.

The Secretary reported our application to the Bridgeton Trails Library Board has been rejected regarding our General Meeting for the months of May and September of 1998. We would like to suggest moving the meetings forward one week during those two months only. Further word will be included in a future Keywords newsletter.

The Membership/ Treasurer stated we have 29 members. Our bank balance is \$852.03. Expenditures will be high over the next few months. Rental payment to the Bridgeton Community Center for Swap Meet and Anniversary Party, supplies for the Party, and purchase of the FD-2000.

The Librarian now has forms which may be used to order disks from the Club Library. A short demo was given on the use of DCMR. The problem one of our members was having was the result of a bad disk, so it never hurts to bring your problems to the Club. Rich plans to update the Club DCMR and add it to our Christmas Disk.

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### OLD BUSINESS:

It was moved by Floyd Kimmel, seconded by Bill Diamond that we advertise the upcoming Swap Meet in the Post Dispatch. The motion passed and will be acted upon.

### PROGRAM:

Bill Diamond gave a demo using the Super CPU which is still available from CMD. This piece of hardware speeds up the computer.

### RAFFLE:

The prizes were won by George McClaskey - Data Directory Pocket Planner and Jason Whitener - Cassette Player.

Respectfully submitted

*Clara McClaskey*

## **November DOM**



### MOTION

Here's an interesting graphic/animation effect on the C64. Load "MOTION.C", 8 - RETURN. Watch it for a while and see the color changes.

### MONTANA

Another solitaire card game for the C64. This one is quite different. Should keep you out of the Pool Hall for a little while. Instructions are in the program. Load "MONTANA", 8 - RETURN.

### MULTIRAID

A neat learning game that promotes hand/eye/brain co-ordination. Hope you remember the 'Times Tables'. Doc file included. Runs in C64 mode. Load "MR", 8 - RETURN

### PETALS ARND ROSE

This little puzzler will get the old grey matter churned up. Guess the secret and win yourself an honorary title.

### P/S GRAPHICS

Here are a few more Printshop graphics appropriate to the holiday.

### DIR PRINTER 3-COL

Directory printing program for C128 in 80 column mode.

### USA MAP QUIZ

A good program to help you brush up on your country's geography. You never know when you'll meet up with Jay Leno and his 'Man in the Street' routine. Works on the C128 in 40

column mode.

### MORSE CODE TUTOR

Have you ever been curious about the 'dits' and 'dahs' you hear when listening to Morse Code? Now's your chance to unravel the mystery and even learn the code yourself. This is certainly a necessary skill when banging on the bars with a tin cup if you're ever locked up in the 'Big House'. This tutorial runs on the C128 in both 40 and 80 columns.

## **FAQ** (Frequently asked Questions).



Why does the red light flash while loading a program or writing data to a disk and end up with garbage on the disk? Why does my 1541 drive get so hot at times?

The flashing red light is an indication of an error condition on the 1541 drive. Up to 30 errors can be corrected in a single load by the drive itself. If more than 30 errors occur in a single load or write function, the result will be a hung-up drive, or a program that will not run.

Disk errors are caused by a number of things. The most common cause of disk errors is a bad diskette, such as one that has been damaged by magnetic fields of physical abuse. Two other possible causes are heat and a misaligned read/write head.

Heat build-up in a 1541 drive can occur if the drive is being used heavily in a short period of time. The easiest solution is to make sure there is plenty of space around the drive for ventilation. If this does not work then place a small fan to cool the drive. A small flat box type fan can be obtained at most electrical supply stores. This should be set over the cooling vents on the drive and will direct air directly into the drive.

The symptoms of possible misalignment can be trouble loading programs that once loaded fine or the red light flashes more than normal during loading and the loading takes much longer than it used to. Head banging if a disk error occurs when loading can be a cause of misalignment.

There are programs that will supposedly adjust for minor misalignment but the best solution is to take it to an experienced repair service.

Another problem with 1541 drives may be the speed of the disk. The speed of the disk should be 300 rpm  $\pm 1\%$ . A disk made on a drive set correctly may not load properly on a drive too far off. Again, there are programs to check the speed of the 1541 drive and if you are not afraid to open the case you can adjust it. Also take a look at the flywheel and belt. It is possible for the flywheel to have shifted on the shaft. Many users have pinned the flywheel to keep this from happening. The belt may have stretched over time and needs to be replaced.

Finally, if you are lucky enough to find someone who may still have the program '1541 PHYSICAL EXAM' and will part with it. It can be used to check the belts, clamping, speed and track alignment, print out an analysis and if necessary realign the drive.

## **Tips**

- If you have a telephone on your computer desk, keep your disks away from it. One ring and you could lose the programs on the disk.

- Don't use the original disk. Make a backup and keep the original in a safe place.

- Buy 4 couplings for half inch plastic pipe at any hardware store. These will fit over the feet on a 1541 drive and give you about an inch more space underneath for air circulation.

- Never back labels from the printer. Labels have been known to come off of the backer sheet and stick in the printer. Wasting a few labels is better than the time it takes to clean up this mess.

- Any file on a disk with an asterick is a corrupted file (\*PRG or \*SEQ) and should be scratched.

- If you leave the computer for any length of time turn off the monitor. As long as you leave the computer on nothing will be lost and you will possibly save the screen from having an image burnt in.

## **Meetings**

CUGSL - 2nd Thursday each month - 7:30PM to 9:00PM - Bridgeton Trails Library on McKelvey Rd. located one block south of St. Charles Rock Road.

Board of Directors - 1st Thursday - same time & location.

BASICs/Graphics SIG - 4th Wednesday each month - 7:00Pm to 9:00PM- same location.

Other SIG Groups meet at various times and places. Check with the SIG Leaders.

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The BASICs/Graphics SIG  
will meet on Nov. 26  
This SIG is for all CUGSL members  
to learn and/or revue the basics of  
Commodore Computers  
and have a one on one  
session for solving problems  
you may be having with  
Software or Hardware.

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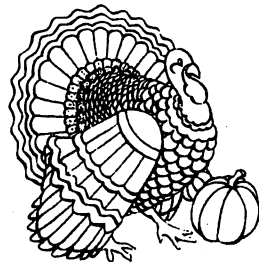
CUGSL has recently learned of another available source for Commodore repair in St. Charles.

Don Hickerson  
429 McDonough  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
724-1910

Don claims to have a good supply of spare parts on hand.

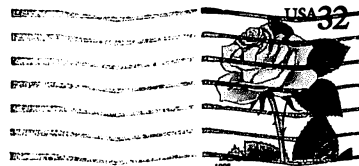
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Have a  
Happy  
Thanksgiving



# **The Commodore Users Group of St. Louis**

P.O. Box 837  
Bridgeton, MO 63044



## **Is it time to renew?**

If your address label  
shows the current month and year  
6 your membership expires  
this month.

## **Notice to all Members**

The December/Anniversary party is  
scheduled for December 11  
Bridgeton Community Center  
7:00PM

CUGSL needs to know how many  
will be present at the party  
to insure we will have  
enough refreshments for all.

If you are not coming  
to the November General Meeting  
but intend to come to the party  
please notify one of the BOD  
members how many guests  
will be with you.

**Before December 1**

**PRESIDENT & BASICs/Graphics SIG**  
Joe McDevitt (314) 385-6082

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Jason Whitener (573) 651-0811  
jasonw@igateway.net

**SECRETARY**  
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Bill Diamond (314) 291-8086

**BOD**  
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lilbob@delphi.com

**PLUS/4 SIG**  
Al Conrow (314) 227-7455

**MDC BBS (314) 830-2272**